

5 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 5 January 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor; Mr. Johnson and Mr. Nilsman;
Mr. Gilpatric, General Lemnitzer and Dr. Charyk;
Mr. McCone and Mr. Bissell

1. Briefing on CORONA

Mr. Lundahl and [] briefed the Group on the results of the CORONA mission of 12 - 16 December. Particularly stressed was the importance of the U-2 in making the CORONA production more meaningful.

2. TACKLE

Following the briefing on CORONA, the Group turned to consideration of the proposed U-2 reconnaissance of China []

After some discussion the Group approved the three flights which were approximated on the chart presented, with the understanding that the first sortie would follow approximately the course outlined in red and that each subsequent sortie would be specifically approved by the Group in the light of experience up to that time. It was specified further that these flights will not take place until after [] if required, is worked out in detail on a step-by-step basis.

In addition, it was asked that the mission not be scheduled on the same day as the Defense reconnaissance project VALERIE/ARCHER, directed into the Sea of Okhotsk.

Inter alia, the following points were made during the discussion:

a. It might be anticipated that these sorties would suffice for perhaps a year. On the other hand, this estimate would be subject to radical change if something of great importance is revealed.

NSC review(s) completed.

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b. These three sample tracks do not reach a small number of important targets in the far West of China. [redacted]

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c. It can be expected that, once these first flights are accomplished, [redacted] will exert pressure to continue them.

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Thomas A. Parrott

Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatrick
Mr. McCone
General Taylor

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